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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-17 NEA-13 IO-13 UCF-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 JPM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8501
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7350

SUBJECT: LEBANESE "RECOGNITION" OF NEW LIBYAN GOVERNMENT

1. IN STATEMENT SEP 3, PRIMIN-DESIGNATE RASHID KARAME DECLARED THAT LIBYAN COUP WAS "INTERNAL MATTER OF CONCERN ONLY THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA." HE CONGRATULATED LIBYAN PEOPLE FOR THEIR REVOLUTION AND WISHED THEM "SUCCESS." KARAME'S DECLARATION WAS CONVEYED TO NEW LEADERS ALONG WITH TELEGRAM FROM FONOFF EXPLAINING THAT, IN VIEW INABILITY CONVENE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, LEBANON UNABLE TAKE FORMAL ACTION ON QUESTION RECOGNITION NEW GOVT.

2. BEIRUT PRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES ARE CONSTRUING KARAME'S DECLARATION AS DE FACTO RECOGNITION. ONE PAPER, LEFTIST ASH SHAAB, QUOTED KARAME AS "CONFIRMING THAT HIS STATEMENT WAS IN EFFECT A RECOGNITION BY LEBANON."

3. FONOFF SPOKESMAN TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT LEBANON DOES NOT TAKE

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OFFICIAL COGNIZANCE OF COUPS LIKE THE ONE IN LIBYA. HE EX-
PLAINED THAT KARAME'S "CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES" AND
FACT LEBANESE AMBASSADOR WILL BE REMAINING IN TRIPOLI CAN BE IN-
TERPRETED IN WHATEVER MANNER NEW REGIME WISHES.

4. THE BEIRUT PRESS, BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT, IN RARE MOMENT OF

UNANIMITY IS DESCRIBING LIBYAN COUP AS AN ANTI-US MOVE RESULTING
FROM CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND "ISRAELI AGGRESSION"
AGAINST THE ARABS.
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